
AVT 103

Introduction to the Artist's Studio

Spring 2017

MW 9:00 am - 10:15 am

MW 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Art and Design Building L004

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Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30

Through projects, readings, class critiques, visuals, and field trips, students explore materials, techniques, concepts, and processes essential to understanding the language of visual arts and the artist's role. Develops imaginative thinking and sensitivity to visual environment.

This class is designed to give non-art majors experience and insight into the methods, materials and concepts that visual artist's use in making work and observing culture and the world around them. Students will learn these fundamentals of studio art practice through lectures, art making and observational exercises.

This course will investigate are through a variety of materials and techniques including 2D, 3D and New Media project designed to give a broad experience of art making possibilities and approaches.

This class fulfills a Mason Core requirement for Arts. Arts goal: Courses aim to achieve a majority of the following learning outcomes: students will be able to identify and analyze the formal elements of a particular art form using vocabulary appropriate to that form; demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between artistic technique and the expression of a work's underlying concept; analyze cultural productions using standards appropriate to the form and cultural context; analyze and interpret material or performance culture in its social, historical, and personal contexts; and engage in the artistic process, including conception, creation, and ongoing critical analysis.

Note: Experimentation is encouraged! Making good art takes time, thought, planning and the allowance of some extra time for mistakes. Though we will be working on projects in class, it is expected that you will spend some time outside of class to complete projects.

Critiques: Class critiques are very important and will be held at the beginning of class on the due date of each project. Be prepared to talk about your work during the critique. If your work is not complete for the critique your grade on that assignment will be lowered by one full letter grade for each day it is late. You are still required to participate in the class critique, even if your work is not being critiqued.

Projects and grading:

There will be 4 major projects and a series of technical exercises throughout the semester. In addition, there will be short writings and postings on the class blog. 20% of each major project grade will come from any preliminary sketches and models. Each assignment will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria.

1. Fulfillment of the project objectives
2. Craftsmanship
3. Conceptual and material inventiveness
4. Physical investment: the sweat factor
5. Overall aesthetic and conceptual quality of the work

The overall breakdown of the final grade:

Projects-50%

Tests-30%

Writings/postings-20%

Grading scale:

A	93 – 100 pts.
A-	90- 92 pts.
B+	87- 89 pts.
B	83 – 86 pts.
B-	80- 82 pts.
C+	77- 79 pts.
C	73 – 76 pts.
C-	70- 72 pts.
D+	67- 69 pts.
D	63 – 66 pts.
D-	60- 62 pts.
F	0- 59 pts.

Grading:

A Work is characterized by outstanding achievement and understanding of critical analysis as reflected in solutions to assignments, technical competence and the critique process. Student must display preparedness and efficient dedication to scheduled studio time. Adherence to attendance policy.

B Work is characterized by excellent competence and understanding of critical analysis as reflected in solutions to assignments, technical competence and the critique process. Student must display preparedness and dedication to scheduled studio time. Adherence to attendance policy.

C Work is characterized by basic competence and understanding of critical analysis as reflected in solutions to assignments, technical competence and the critique process. Student must display adequate preparedness and dedication to scheduled studio time. Adherence to attendance policy.

D Work is characterized by minimal effort and success. Lowest passing grade.

Studio Policies

1. Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory.

3 unexcused absences = final grade reduced by 1 letter (A becomes a B),

4 unexcused absences = 2 letters

6 unexcused absences = failure no matter your grade

8 absences (excused or unexcused) will result in failure **EVEN IF YOU HAVE A VALID REASON FOR YOUR ABSENCE.**

Tardiness

If a student is more than 10 minutes late to class, this will count as a ½ absence (unexcused).

If a student is more than 25 minutes late to a class, they will not be permitted in the classroom, which will result in a full unexcused absence—unless they have given prior and timely notice and justification to the Instructor.

If a student leaves class 10 minutes or more early, this will result in a ½ absence (excused or unexcused).

2. **Do not miss a critique**; these are your exam dates and require total participation. Show up with your work and be prepared to think, ask/answer questions, and offer analytical criticism. Again, late work will not be critiqued and results in a lower grade.

3. While I try to keep costs to a minimum, you are responsible for purchasing any materials you need for the class beyond the provided tools and machinery. Please be responsible and adhere to rules and safety demos concerning the studio.

4. The gathering of materials will be done outside of scheduled studio time. There is no substitute for time spent in the studio with peers and the instructor.

5. **Do not remove any tools** or other materials belonging to the studio. This is an Honor Code Violation. See Academic Integrity heading in syllabus.

6. The course is demanding and moves quickly to cover the basics of sculpture. If you utilize your time efficiently, you may not have to expend large amounts of time outside of class. The key is good work habits.

7. Remove all work after grading.

8. Maintain your work area in a clean manner. Do not leave a mess for other classes. Violators are subject to losing studio privileges.

9. General cleanups require all students to participate. Failure to do so will negatively affect the final grade.

10. You will be instructed on the proper and safe way to operate tools. Safety is a must, seek assistance when in doubt.

11. No cell phones.

12. No food.

13. Wear casual clothing and closed-toed shoes. Bring an old long sleeved shirt for protection.

14. Do not spray paint in the studio. See me.

Safety: be aware that there are potential hazards regarding the work in this course. While I conduct thorough demonstrations, it is ultimately up to each student to be prudent and diligent. It is my desire to keep the studio open after scheduled course usage so that work can be completed in a timely manner. This can only happen if students exercise the most careful adherence to studio policies. Students working

in studio outside of scheduled courses take full responsibility.

Materials:

You will be required to get a few basic items at the beginning of class as well as some items needed for any specific project you are working on. Places you can buy ART MATERIALS: Johnson Center Bookstore (on campus)/ Plaza, 3045 Nutley St, Fairfax: 703 280-4500/ Utrecht, 1250 I (eye) St, NW DC, 202-230-9097 www.dickblick.com

Text: No book is required. Readings will be handed out on a per-project basis.

You should have these supplies available for every class.

Hot Glue Gun that uses 1/2" round glue sticks. Get a "high temperature" gun.

One bag of at least 20 glue sticks.

Razor/utility knife. This should be a large (6" x 1"), standard breakaway utility knife.

Package of replacement blades for your knife.

Small jar Rubber Cement

X-Acto Knife and assortment of blades.

Drawing tools: #2 pencil and eraser

Sketch book or notebook: 8 1/2 x 11 (for this class only)

Pad of Bristol Board 8 1/2 x 11

(1) roll masking tape (3/4" width or wider)

(1) Sharpie or felt tip marker

Tool box to carry it all.

Students with Disabilities and Learning Differences: If you have a diagnosed disability or learning difference and you need Academic accommodations please inform me at the beginning of the semester and contact the Office of Disability Services (SUB I room 234, 703-993-2474). You must provide me with a faculty contact sheet from that office outlining the accommodations needed for your disability or learning difference. All academic accommodations must be arranged in advance through the Office of Disability Services.

Technology: In accordance with George Mason University policy, please silence all cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices at the start of class. The instructor of the class will keep his/her cell phone active to assure receipt of any Mason Alerts in a timely fashion; or in the event that the instructor does not have a cell phone, he/she will designate one student to keep a cell phone active to receive such alerts.

Commitment to Diversity: This class will be conducted as an intentionally inclusive community that celebrates diversity and welcomes the participation in the life of the university of faculty, staff and students who reflect the diversity of our plural society. All may feel free to speak and to be heard without fear that the content of the opinions they express will bias the evaluation of their academic performance or hinder their opportunities for participation in class activities. In turn, all are expected to be respectful of each other without regard to

race, class, linguistic background, religion, political beliefs, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, veteran's status, or physical ability.

Statement on Ethics in Teaching and Practicing Art and Design: As professionals responsible for the education of undergraduate and graduate art and design students, the faculty of the School of Art adheres to the ethical standards and practices incorporated in the professional Code of Ethics of our national accreditation organization, The National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

Open Studio Hours: SOA teaching studios are open to students for extended periods of time mornings, evenings and weekends whenever classes are not in progress. Policies, procedures and schedules for studio use are established by the SOA studio faculty and are posted in the studios.

Important University Dates:

Consortium Registration Deadline	TBD
First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application; Payment Due Date	August 29
Labor Day, university closed	September 5
Last day to add classes —all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	September 6
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	September 20
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	September 30
Midterm progress reporting period (100-200 level classes)—grades available via Patriot Web	September 26 – October 21
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergraduate students only)	October 3 – October 28
Columbus Day recess (Monday classes/labs meet Tuesday. Tuesday classes do not meet this week)	October 10
Incomplete work from spring/summer 2016 due to instructor	October 28
Incomplete grade changes from spring/summer 2016 due to Registrar	November 4
Thanksgiving recess	November 23 – 27
Last day of classes	December 10
Reading Days Reading days provide students with additional study time for final examinations. Faculty may schedule optional study sessions, but regular classes or exams may not be held.	December 12
Exam Period	Tues December 13 – Tues December 20
Degree Conferral Date The Winter Graduation Ceremony will be held on Wed December 21.	December 21

ArtsBus - Dates for Fall 2016: September 24th, October 22nd and November 19th.

ArtsBus Credit and Policies: You are responsible for knowing and following Artsbus policies and rules. Please go to the ArtsBus website: <http://artsbus.gmu.edu> "Student Information" for important information regarding ArtsBus policy. For credit to appear on your transcript you must enroll in AVT 300. This also applies to anyone who intends to travel to New York independently, or do the DC Alternate Assignment.

If you plan/need to go on multiple ArtsBus trips during a semester and need them towards your total requirement, you must enroll in multiple sections of AVT 300.

Non-AVT majors taking art classes do not need Artsbus credit BUT may need to go on the Artsbus for a class assignment. You can either sign up for AVT 300 or buy a ticket for the bus trip at the Center of the Arts. Alternate trips must be approved by the instructor of the course that is requiring an ArtsBus trip.

Visual Voices Lecture Series: Fall 2016 Visual Voices is a year-long series of lectures by artists, art historians and others about contemporary art and art practice. Visual Voices lectures are held on Thursday evenings from 7:20- 9:00 p.m. in Harris Theater: <http://soa.gmu.edu/visualvoices/>. Dates for Fall 2016: September 1st, September 8th, September 22nd, October 6th and October 20th.

Masonlive/Email: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Attendance Policies: Students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation. Students who miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual instructor's grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus.

Honor Code: Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code. Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

Writing Center: Students who are in need of intensive help with grammar, structure or mechanics in their writing should make use of the services of Writing Center, located in Robinson A116 (703-993-1200). The services of the Writing Center are available by appointment, online and, occasionally, on a walk-in basis. The Collaborative Learning Hub Located in Johnson Center 311 (703-993-3141), the lab offers in-person one-on-one support for the Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office, Blackboard, and a variety of other software. Dual monitor PCs make the lab ideal for collaborating on group projects, Macs are also available; as well as a digital recording space, collaborative tables, and a SMART Board. Free workshops are also available (Adobe and Microsoft) through Training and Certification; visit ittraining.gmu.edu to see the schedule of workshops and to sign up.